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State Water Resources Control Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION THAT WOULD INCORPORATE A PROGRAM FOR CONTROL OF DIAZINON AND CHLORPYRIFOS RUNOFF INTO THE LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will now accept comments on an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Central Valley Region that would establish a Program for Control of Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos Runoff into the Lower San Joaquin River. The proposed amendment and the State Water Board item language and draft resolution are available on the State Water Board's website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html>. The proposed amendment was adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, (Central Valley Water Board) on October 21, 2005. The State Water Board expects to consider the proposed amendment at a future meeting in 2006. Notice of that meeting will be published separately.

The State Water Board Bay Protection and Toxic Clean-up Program (clean-up plan for the Delta) includes requirements to develop a Basin Plan Amendment for diazinon and chlorpyrifos in the lower San Joaquin River. The amendment establishes site-specific numeric water quality objectives for chlorpyrifos and diazinon in the lower San Joaquin River; a specific timeframe for compliance with objectives and allocations; a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL); and an implementation framework for ensuring compliance.

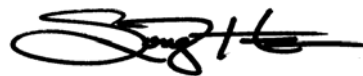
TMDLs for diazinon and chlorpyrifos were designed to eliminate the impacts of diazinon and chlorpyrifos to aquatic life in the Lower San Joaquin River. The loading capacity and allocations are established at levels necessary to attain the applicable numeric and narrative water quality objectives. A combined additive toxicity formula, found in the Basin Plan, is used to account for the joint toxicity of diazinon and chlorpyrifos. Load allocations are established by subarea and apply to both the irrigation and dormant seasons.

Load allocations for diazinon and chlorpyrifos discharges will be assigned to the watersheds that discharge into different reaches of the lower San Joaquin River. The allocations apply to the subarea discharge point to the lower San Joaquin River. Dischargers of diazinon and chlorpyrifos will be required to develop and implement a plan to reduce diazinon and chlorpyrifos levels in the lower San Joaquin River with a five-year time schedule for compliance.

The amendment will be implemented through an agricultural runoff control program. Compliance is required by December 1, 2010. After December 1, 2010, the discharge of diazinon or chlorpyrifos is prohibited during either the dormant or the irrigation season if there was any exceedance of diazinon and/or chlorpyrifos water quality objectives in the previous season. Each discharger must submit a management plan to the Central Valley Water Board that describes the actions that the discharger will take to reduce diazinon and chlorpyrifos discharges during either the irrigation or the dormant season, and that will meet the applicable allocations by the required compliance dates. The amendment also requires dischargers to consider whether an alternative to diazinon or chlorpyrifos would degrade ground or surface water.

Comment letters must be received by 5 p.m. on April 3, 2006. After the April deadline, State Water Board staff will not accept additional written comments unless the State Water Board determines that such comments should be accepted or unless changes are made to the proposed resolution before the State Water Board meeting. Please send comments to: Song Her, Clerk to the Board, State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 341-5620 (fax), commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Please direct questions about this notice to Glenda Marsh, Division of Water Quality, at (916) 341-5558 (gmarsh@waterboards.ca.gov) or Senior Staff Counsel Steven H. Blum at (916) 341-5177 (SBlum@waterboards.ca.gov).

March 2, 2006
Date



Song Her
Clerk to the Board